These measures include reduction in budget deficit, strict economy in public expenditure, maintaining adequate supplies of essential commodities through public distribution system, augmenting domestic supplies through imports, as feasible, and strict action against hoarders and blackmarketeers.

Scheme to finance needy students by Nationalised Banks

2664. S H R I SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the nationalised banks have schemes to finance needy and deserving students to pursue higher studies;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the terms and conditions of these schemes are very rigid and thus defeats the very purpose of this scheme; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to liberalise the scheme to make it more useful to the deserving students?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that all public sector banks provide loans for educational purposes of needy and deserving students to enable them to pursue higher education in India as well as abroad. Educational loans have been included under "Priority Sector" lending of commercial banks for which concessional rates of interest have been prescribed effective from 10th October, 1988 as under:—

(i) Indigent student for the purpose of higher education in India.	Not below bank rate, which is 10% at present.
(ii) Other educational loans . . .	14.00 to 15.50% per annum.

"Indigent students" has been defined as one coming from a family whose total family income does not exceed Rs. 12,000/- per annum. While granting educational loans the banks normally require that the borrower student should secure good academic record consistely, insurance cover may be available and guarantee of parent/guardian is there.

Thus the terms and conditions for such loans appears reasonable, specially when the interest rate is concessional.

Smuggling of edible oil from Gujarat

2665. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report in the Gujarat Samachar (Bombay edition) dated the 12th July, 1990 regarding smuggling of edible oil from Gujarat across the border; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to check smuggling of edible oil?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Export of cotton

2666. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of cotton exported so far during the current year;

(b) what is the target fixed for such exports during the year; and

(c) what steps have been taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF

THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Out of the quota of 14.81 lakh bales of cotton, released so far for export during the 1989-90 cotton season (September, 89-August, '90) a quantity of 12.29 lakh bales had been shipped till 23-8-90.

(c) All quota holders have been advised to effect exports by 31-8-90, and the concerned organisations have been approached to extend necessary help.

Request by Andhra Pradesh Government to Central Government to bear the burden of 100 per cent waiver of *cooperative loans*

2667. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Pradesh Government requested the Central Government to bear burden of 100 per cent waiver of cooperative loans;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government had made it clear that because of the recent cyclone the State Government could not bear even the fifty per cent of the waiver as suggested by the Central Government; and

(c) if so, what is Central Government reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Such issues have been raised by the representatives of the State Government in the meetings taken by the Government of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). No formal proposals in this regard have been received from the State Government.

According to the decisions of the Central Government with regard to implementation of debt relief scheme, the Central Government would meet the full cost of write off in respect of public sector banks and regional rural banks. In case of co-operative banks 50 per cent of the cost shall be borne by the Government of India. The remaining 50 per cent would be met by State Governments, and to meet their share, State Co-operative Bank can avail concessional loan from NABARD. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to revise/modify the above decisions.

Rate of inflation

2668. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rate of inflation has increased considerably during the first six months of 1990-91;

(b) if so, is this trend likely to continue in the remaining months of the year; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in order to contain this growing inflation so as to mitigate the hardship of the common man?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) It is not clear whether Hon'ble Members are referring to the financial year 1990-91, in which case the six months are not yet over, or the calender year 1990. It is also not clear whether information is required for the annual inflation rate or the price rise during the six months only. In either